

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector
TO THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BUCKINGHAM.

1909.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

STEEPLE CLAYDON,

12th February, 1910.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Twelfth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, and in doing so, I thank you very much for the consideration and attention which you have always given to my recommendations.

During the year I have attended 19 Council Meetings and 11 Committee Meetings. I also attended, by your direction, a meeting at Aylesbury, of the Rural District Councils affected by the Thames Conservancy regulations and requirements.

In my report of 1908, I have gone fully into the physical and geological characters of the district which consists of 33 parishes, comprising an area of 54,696 acres (85 square miles) exclusive of the area covered with water, which amounts to 197 acres.

The Rainfall for the past year has amounted to 29·81 inches, which is over 6 inches more than that of 1908. The average for the last 30 years is about 26 inches, but the rainfall has been gradually decreasing until the year 1909, when we had the most unseasonable summer and autumn experienced for many years. The number of days in 1909, during which rain was registered was 193, compared with 172 in 1908. The wettest month was October, while June was nearly as bad, both months registering over 4 inches of rain. The driest month was February, closely followed by November, and these months registered less than one inch of rain each. The springs have benefitted by the increased rainfall and there has been practically no complaint of shortage of drinking water throughout the district.

*Number of
Meetings
attended.*

*Area of
District, etc.*

Rainfall.

Population.

At the Census of 1901 the District contained a population of 8,124, being a decrease of 830 since the Census of 1891. There were 2,007 inhabited houses, having an average number of 4.047 persons per house. I have estimated the population as being 7,600 to the middle of 1908.

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 172 (boys 90, girls 82), being equal to an annual birth-rate of 22.63 per 1,000 living, compared with 23.37 for 1908. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1909 was 25.6.

Death-rate.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 88, being equal to an Annual Death Rate of 11.6 per 1,000 living. Thirteen deaths of residents were registered as having occurred in Public Institutions outside the District, so that the nett death-rate is 12.9 per 1,000 living, compared with 13.4 for the year 1908. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1909 was 14.5. There is also what is known as the corrected death-rate, which means that a District containing a larger than average proportion of infants and aged people will necessarily have a higher death-rate than it would if the average distribution of the whole country prevailed. This would further reduce the nett death-rate by 1.5. Buckinghamshire, and consequently this District, contain more than their due proportion of infants and old people, whose rate of mortality is very high. A great number of young adults, whose mortality is low, leave the country districts and seek employment in the large towns. During the last ten years the death-rate of this District has been steadily decreasing, as in the year 1900 it was 15.2, while in 1909 it was 12.9, and the average for the ten years was 13.97. Buckinghamshire in 1908 had the third lowest corrected county death-rate, as only two counties in England and Wales, viz., Radnorshire and Huntingdonshire, were lower. The rate for Radnorshire was 9.5, for Huntingdonshire 10.7, and for Buckinghamshire 10.9, while for Glamorganshire it was 17.8, and for Lancashire 18.7.

*Infantile
Mortality.*

The Infantile Mortality, or number of deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births registered, was 75 compared with 61 for 1908. The rate for 1909 for Rural England and Wales was 98. The Infantile Death-rate for 1909 for the whole country has been very

low, and this has been principally due to the cool wet summer which we have had. Hot summers increase the Infantile Mortality rate owing to the number of deaths from Summer diarrhoea. I have called attention in my last year's report to the danger of Milk Contamination by the common house-fly. The danger was not so evident owing to last year's wet summer, but we may have a hot summer in 1910. I must repeat my warning.

*Phthisis
Death-rate.*

Only one death has been registered as having been caused by Phthisis during the past year, and the Phthisis death-rate would therefore be 0·13 per 1000 compared with 0·65 for 1908. The rate for England and Wales is 1·12 for 1908.

*Zymotic
Death-rate.*

The Zymotic death-rate, or as it is now called, the Epidemic death-rate, is *nil*, compared with 0·13 per 1000 in 1908, and 0·80 for Rural England and Wales (1909). The Epidemic death-rate then is the term applied to the mortality from the seven principal epidemic diseases, viz., Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Fever (simple continued, Typhus and Enteric) and Diarrhoea. This low rate is very satisfactory.

Scarlet Fever.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified without a death in 1909, compared with nineteen cases and no death during 1908. The cases occurred in the following villages:—Marsh Gibbon 5, Preston Bissett 2, and Steeple Claydon 1. The Hospital Tents were used at Preston Bissett and Marsh Gibbon.

Diphtheria.

One case of Diphtheria was notified in 1909 without a fatal result, compared with nine cases and no death in 1908. The cases occurred at Akeley.

It would be well if your Council would pay for the Bacteriological Examination of the throat in doubtful cases, and also supply anti-toxin free to all practitioners who notify cases. This is being done by some Sanitary Authorities in the County.

*Enteric
(Typhoid)
Fever.*

No case of Enteric Fever was notified in this district during the past year. From 1898 to the present time only 9 cases of Enteric Fever have occurred in this district, and four of these were imported cases. In spite of every precaution this disease may be spread by what are known as "carrier" cases. These are persons who have had the disease, it may be some years ago, and yet who are still able to pass the infection on to others.

Measles. This disease is not notifiable in this district, but no deaths were registered from it during 1909, or in the previous year.

Whooping Cough. This disease has been rather prevalent, but no death has occurred from it during the year.

Erysipelas. Five cases of Erysipelas were notified without a death.

Small-pox. No case notified. The number of Children who are vaccinated gets steadily less and I greatly fear that before very long we shall have a severe epidemic of Small-pox to battle with. The way of the anti-vaccinator is made so easy that many parents, who are not really opposed to vaccination *per se*, obtain exemption certificates, so that they may not be disturbed for a few nights by a restless child. The slight but certain inconvenience of the present far outweighs the severe but probable danger of the future, but when that danger becomes imminent you have these same people bringing their children for vaccination in large numbers.

Cancer. Nine deaths were caused by Cancer in 1909, compared with six in 1908. The mortality from this disease is gradually rising in this district as it is in the country at large. The average number of deaths in this district during the last ten years is 7.7, and the rate per 1000 for 1909 is 1.17. The rate in 1908 for England and Wales is 0.92 which is the highest on record, while in the five years 1881—1885 the rate for the whole country was only 0.55 per 1000. England occupies a bad position with respect to mortality from Cancer compared with other countries, the rate being only exceeded in two European Countries, viz., Switzerland and the Netherlands. Ireland, in spite of its abnormal age constitution, occupies a much better position with a rate of 0.76

Influenza. Four deaths were registered from Influenza in 1909, compared with two in 1908.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889. Fourteen cases of Infectious Disease have been notified under this Act during 1909, compared with thirty-five cases in 1908. As will be seen from the table below this is the smallest number notified since 1890, the first year of the Acts coming into force. I give here the usual table of Infectious Diseases notified in this district since the Act was adopted in 1890, and also a similar table with the estimated population and number of deaths from the diseases indicated since 1898.

CASES NOTIFIED,

		Scarlet Fever.	Erysipe- las.	Diph- theria.	Typ- hoid.	Mem- braneous Croup.	Typhus.	Small- pox.	Puerperal Fever.	Ttl.
1890	...	0	6	1	2	0	1	0	0	10
1891	...	23	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	32
1892	...	16	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	24
1893	...	28	6	6	3	0	0	12	0	55
1894	...	46	14	11	2	0	0	0	0	73
1895	...	17	12	54	9	0	0	0	0	92
1896	...	4	17	16	4	1	0	0	0	42
1897	...	13	16	6	1	0	0	0	0	36
1898	...	8	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	19
1899	...	5	8	16	1	0	0	0	0	30
1900	...	24	6	21	2	0	0	0	1	54
1901	...	18	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	28
1902	...	31	10	3	0	0	0	2	0	48
1903	...	49	9	4	0	0	0	0	1	63
1904	...	44	7	14	1	1	0	0	2	69
1905	...	33	9	21	1	0	0	0	0	64
1906	...	8	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
1907	...	3	6	21	0	0	0	0	1	31
1908	...	19	5	9	2	0	0	0	0	35
1909	...	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	14

DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES,

Year.		Population.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipel- as.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Membran- ous Croup.	Typhus.	Small-pox.	Puerperal Fever.	Total.
1898	...	8466	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1899	...	8405	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1900	...	8358	...	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	7
1901	...	8110	...	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1902	...	8050	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1903	...	8000	...	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
1904	...	7940	...	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	5
1905	...	7824	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1906	...	7800	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1907	...	7750	...	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
1908	...	7672	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1909	...	7600	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

The Local Government Board Order dated December 10th, 1908, came into force on the 1st of January, 1909. It makes the notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis compulsory in the the case of those receiving Medical Relief from the Poor Law. In the Order the word "poor person" has been substituted for the objectionable word "pauper." Four cases have been notified to me during the year, but at present the benefit of the order is not apparent.

Milk Supplies.

Milk produced in this district is largely sent to London, and the duties devolving on him under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885 are being carried out with energy and thoroughness by your Inspector, Mr. Bell. I have made inspections of several cowsheds in the district with him and the photographs of a new Cowshed (external and internal views) are reproduced in this report. In any suspicious cases of tuberculosis, cow-pox, etc., which your Inspector may come across in dairy cows, he has the permission of your Council to call in the Veterinary Surgeon who is appointed by you for this purpose.

In the early part of the year an Inspector sent down by the London County Council condemned a dairy cow as suffering from tuberculous udder. The case was reported to your Council and your Inspector saw the animal. As he was not satisfied that the cow was suffering from tuberculosis of the udder he called in the Veterinary Surgeon, who applied the tuberculin test, with a negative result. A sample of the milk was also taken by the Inspector and sent by me to the Clinical Research Association for analysis. They reported the sample to be free from tubercle bacilli.

Water Supplies.

Water Certificates were applied for in eight cases, and were granted in all of them. Your Council now requires to be satisfied as to the water supply before passing the plans for new buildings. I have visited and taken samples from ten of the public supplies in the District and made full analyses of them. The results are tabulated and appear at the end of my report.

Factories, Workshops, etc

I have inspected with Mr. Bell the Factories, Workshops, Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses in the district, and have made a systematic inspection of the District. These inspections he will fully report on.

Schools.

A great number of the schools have been inspected during the year and various sanitary defects have been remedied. We are still retaining the disinfection of schools in our own hands.

Isolation Hospital.

The tents have been erected at Preston Bissett and Marsh Gibbon. In the latter Village four cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in the tents. These cases were from different parts of the village, but owing to prompt isolation and disinfection no further cases of the

disease broke out. I trust that in the coming year something may be done in the matter of providing a permanent Isolation Hospital, and I must also call your attention to the need of a steam disinfecter, which might be provided at the Isolation Hospital.

*New
Buildings.*

Fourteen new houses have been built during the year and five are in course of erection. Three cottages have been condemned as unfit for human habitation, and in this report I submit photographs of a condemned cottage and of a pair of new ones built in 1909. The Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, is now in force, and will doubtless have far reaching effects. It adds considerably to the powers of Rural District Councils, and imposes duties on them which, under certain circumstances, they will be compelled to carry out. In their default the County Council will have power to act as the local authority.

As regards Sewerage, Disinfection, etc., they will be dealt with in the Inspector's report.

In conclusion, I beg to thank Mr. Bell, your Sanitary Inspector, for his valuable help and co-operation.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP L. BENSON, M.D., D.P.H. (CAMB.),

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I. Vital Statistics for the Whole District during 1909 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.					TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.		Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the Districts.	Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Num- ber.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Rate.					
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.							
1899 ..	8405	187	22.2	27	144.4	122	14.5	0	9	129	15.3			
1900 ..	8358	214	25.6	18	84.1	129	15.4	3	5	127	15.2			
1901 ..	8110	187	23.1	18	96.3	109	13.4	2	6	113	13.9			
1902 ..	8050	172	21.4	16	93.0	98	12.2	0	9	107	13.3			
1903 ..	8000	185	23.1	12	64.9	107	13.4	1	9	115	14.4			
1904 ..	7940	187	23.5	8	42.8	100	12.6	0	5	105	13.2			
1905 ..	7824	202	25.8	21	103.9	110	14.0	0	8	118	15.1			
1906 ..	7800	170	21.8	15	88.3	100	12.8	0	11	111	14.2			
1907 ..	7750	181	23.4	15	82.9	102	13.2	1	7	109	14.1			
1908 ..	7672	179	23.3	11	61.4	98	12.8	0	5	103	13.4			
Averages } for years } 1899-1908.	7990	186.4	23.3	16.1	86.2	107.5	13.4	0.7	7.4	113.7	14.2			
1909	7600	172	22.6	12	69.8	88	11.6	0	13	101	13.2			

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). .. 54,696 acres.

Total population at all ages .. 8124
Number of inhabited houses .. 2007
Average number of persons per house.. 4.047
At Census of 1901.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	
	<p data-bbox="769 1055 816 1687">Buckingham Union Workhouse.</p> <p data-bbox="856 1126 903 1687">Buckingham Nursing Home.</p> <p data-bbox="942 1147 989 1687">Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.</p> <p data-bbox="1028 1108 1075 1687">Bucks County Asylum, Stone.</p>

The Union Workhouse is not within the District.

TABLE II..

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in the Buckingham Rural District in 1909 and previous years.

YEAR.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				Registration Sub-District of Buckingham (Rural).				Registration Sub-District of Tingewick.				Biddlesden, Turweston and Westbury (Brackley Union).			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1899	8405	187	129	27	3196	81	44	9	4533	94	73	16	676	12	12	2
1900	8358	214	127	18	3176	66	48	5	4522	137	68	10	660	11	11	3
1901	8110	187	113	18	3048	66	39	11	4424	109	61	6	638	12	13	1
1902	8050	172	107	16	3018	63	40	7	4402	99	63	8	630	10	4	2
1903	8000	185	115	12	2995	58	52	3	4385	120	55	7	620	7	8	2
1904	7940	187	105	8	2960	65	41	2	4375	117	62	6	605	5	2	0
1905	7824	202	118	21	2910	59	51	10	4330	128	60	10	584	15	7	1
1906	7800	170	111	15	2900	52	31	2	4322	101	61	8	578	17	8	0
1907	7750	181	109	15	2860	59	42	5	4312	106	60	10	578	16	7	0
1908	7672	179	103	11	2830	54	37	5	4280	118	62	6	562	7	4	0
Averages of Years 1897 to 1908	7990	186.4	113.7	16.1	2989	62.3	42.5	5.9	4388	112.9	62.5	8.7	613	11.2	7.6	1.1
1909	7600	172	101	13	2800	49	38	3	4250	111	53	10	550	12	10	0

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1909 in the Buckingham Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At Ages.—Years.						1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.						
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	5	..	..	..	1	2	1	4	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	8	..	1	6	1	..	..	8	..	..	6	..
Typhus fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	14		2	6	2	2	2	12			6	

TABLE IV.

Causes of and Ages at Death during year 1909 in the Rural District of Buckingham

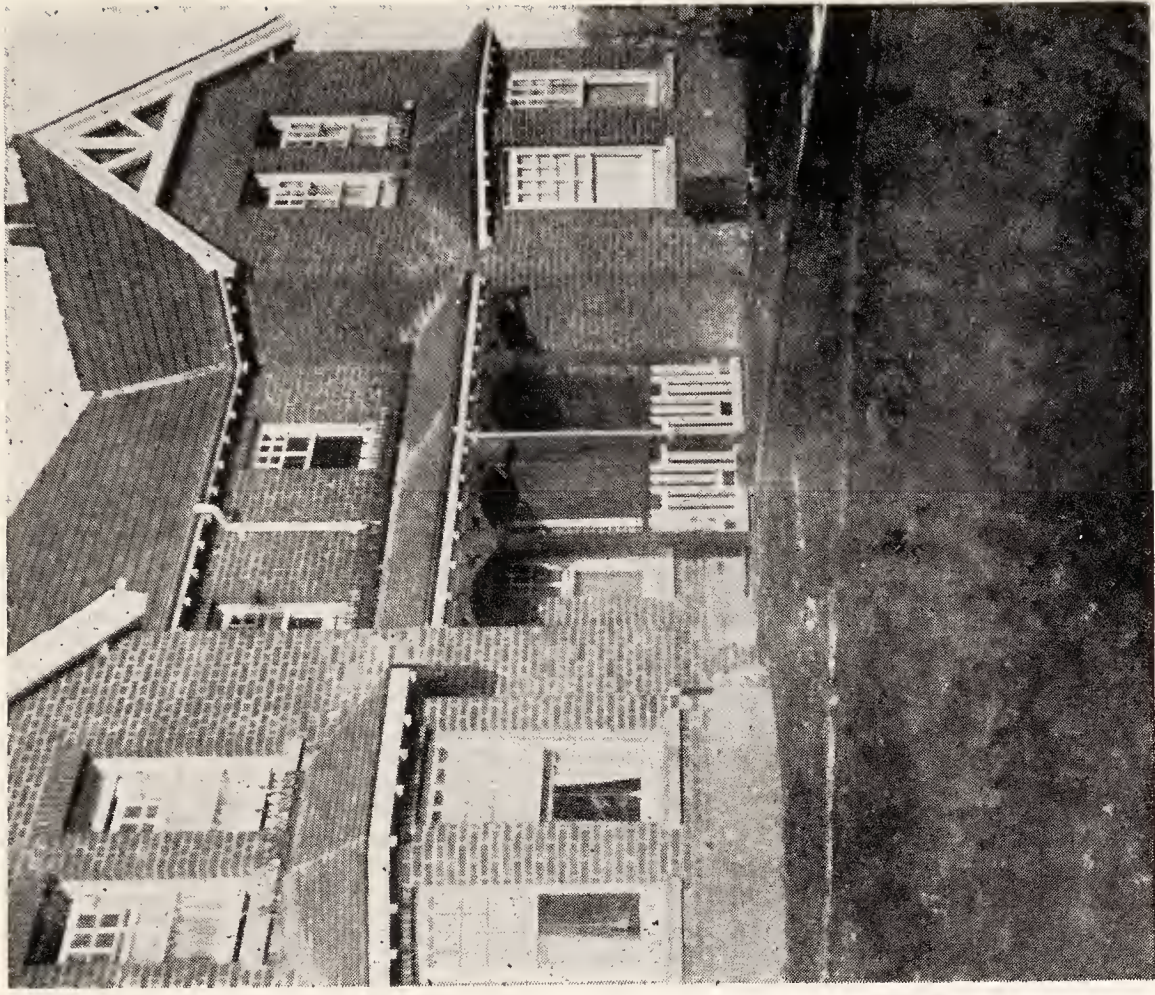
CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND DISTRICT.			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	1.	2.	3.	
Small-pox											
Measles											
Scarlet fever											
Whooping-cough											
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)											
Croup											
Fever } Typhus											
} Enteric											
} other continued											
Epidemic influenza...	4					1	3	4			
Cholera											
Plague											
Diarrhœa											
Enteritis	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....		.....
Puerperal fever											
Erysipelas											
Other septic diseases											
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1		.....
Other tubercular diseases	1	1	.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	1		.....
Cancer, malignant disease	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	5	3	4	2	.....
Bronchitis	8	2	1	.....	.....	.....	5	3	5		.....
Pneumonia	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	2	2	.....
Pleurisy											
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	1		1						1		
Alcoholism }											
Cirrhosis of liver }	1					1		1			
Venereal diseases											
Premature birth	4	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3		.....
Diseases and Accidents of parturition											
Heart diseases	18	1	.....	.....	.....	1	16	7	10	1	
Accidents	3	.....	.....	1	.....	2		1	2		
Suicides	1					1			1		
All other causes	45	5	2	1	2	9	26	17	23	5	
All causes	101	13	5	2	2	23	56	38	53	10	



NEW COWSHEDS 1909
(EXTERIOR).



NEW COWSHEDS 1909
(INTERIOR).



NEW COTTAGES 1909.



COTTAGE CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION.

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Ttl under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	6-7 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	Ttl. under 1 Year.
All Causes.	{ Certified...	...	4	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
	{ Uncertified	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Infectious Diseases.	{ Small-pox	...												
	{ Chicken-pox	...												
	{ Measles	...												
	{ Scarlet Fever	...												
	{ Diphtheria : Croup	...												
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{ Whooping Cough	...												
	{ Diarrhoea, all forms	...												
	{ Enteritis,	...												
	{ Muco-enteritis }	...												
Wasting Diseases.	{ Gastritis, Gastro- }	...												
	{ intestinal Catarrh }	...												
	{ Premature Birth...	...	3			3			1					4
	{ Congenital Defects	...		1		1							1	2
	{ Injury at Birth ...	...											
Tubercu- lous Diseases.	{ Want of breast-milk	...												
	{ Atrophy, Debility }	...												
	{ Marasmus }	...					1			1				2
	{ Tuberculous Men- ingitis	...												
	{ Tuberculous	...												
	{ Peritonitis	...						1						1
	{ Tabes Mesenterica }	...												
	{ Other Tubercu- lous Diseases }	...												
	Erysipelas	...												
	Syphilis	...												
	Rickets	...												
	Meningitis	...												
	(not Tuberculous)	...												
	Convulsions	...												
	Bronchitis	...									1	1		2
	Laryngitis	...												
	Pneumonia	...												
	Suffocation,	...												
	overlaying...	...												
	Other Causes	...	1		1	2								2
			4	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13

District (or sub-division) of Buckingham Rural

Population estimated to middle
of 1909 7600Births in the year { legitimate .. 169
 { illegitimate .. 3Deaths in the year { legitimate infants 13
 { illegitimate infants 0

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 101

Analyses of Water Supplies in 1909.

SOURCE OF SAMPLE.	PHYSICAL CHARACTER.	GRAINS PER GALLON.				Nitrites.	PARTS PER MILLION.		
		Chlorine.	Equivalent of Common Salt.	Total Hardness.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.		Free Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 15 min. at 212° F.
Adstock Pump	Pale greenish; no turbidity..	5.6	9.2	35	0.8	None	0.03	0.1	3.1
Barton Hartshorne Tap ..	Colourless, no turbidity ..	1.8	3.0		0.25	"	0.01	0.04	0.25
Chetwode Fountain ..	Colourless, no turbidity ..	0.6	1.0	28	0.02	"	0.01	0.04	0.
Maids Moreton, Duck Lake	Pale greenish; no turbidity..	2.0	3.3	26	0.02	"	0.03	0.06	1.1
" " Lower End	Pale greenish; no turbidity..	4.	6.7	30	0.7	"	0.01	0.07	0.7
Padbury Public Supply ..	Pale yellowish; slightly turbid	1.4	2.3	38	0.02	"	0.01	0.05	0.8
Thornborough Pump No. 1	Pale greenish; no turbidity..	5.8	9.4	36	0.1	"	0.01	0.06	
" " No. 2	Pale greenish; no turbidity..	1.8	2.9	31	0.3	"	None	0.04	.2
Tingewick Pump, Chapel Lane	Greenish; no turbidity ..	2.0	3.3	23	0.2	"	0.02	0.05	0.5
" Jubilee Pump ..	Pale greenish; no turbidity..	2.5	4.1	25	0.6	"	0.03	0.08	0.

Rural District Council of Buckingham.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR.

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

BUCKINGHAM,

LEONARD BELL,

February 12th, 1910.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Buckingham Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my second Annual Report upon the Sanitary Work and Improvements which have been carried out in your district during (the past twelve months) 1909.

Inspections.

During the year 1,313 inspections, re-inspections, and calls have been made.

501 letters dealing with Sanitary Matters have been written.

71 Preliminary Notices and 12 duly authorised Statutory Notices have been served. Again in a number of cases Verbal Notices have had the desired effect.

Systematic Inspections have been made in the district—more so in parts requiring special attention. The necessary action has been promptly taken for the abatement of nuisances found to be in existence.

Your Council has not found it necessary to take legal proceedings in any cases reported.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified:—

Total number of cases reported—9.

Preston Bissett	...	2	Scarlet Fever.
Marsh Gibbon	...	5	do.
Steeple Claydon	...	1	do.
			—
Total	...	8	Scarlet Fever.
			—
Akeley	...	1	Diphtheria.
			—

Prompt measures have in every case been taken for the necessary Isolation and for the prevention of the spread of infection.

The two cases of Scarlet Fever reported at Preston Bissett occurred in an overcrowded house where Isolation was impossible.

By the instructions of your Medical Officer of Health, the Isolation Tents were erected, into which the cases were removed. No further cases occurred in the village.

Again the tents were erected at Marsh Gibbon, where 5 cases of Scarlet Fever had been notified, and again isolation proved effective and the possibilities of an epidemic were suppressed.

After all cases of an infectious character, the premises on which such infection occurred have been disinfected. The disinfection of Schools has also been carried out by me, together with the usual duties which appertain to those of an Isolation Hospital Steward.

New Buildings,

As Building Inspector to your Council, I have pleasure in reporting on an increased number of modern dwellings which have been erected in the district during the year 1909

Number of New Houses erected at—

Poundon	...	...	4
Barton Hartshorne	...	...	4
Steeple Claydon	...	...	3
Chetwode	...	...	2
			—
Total	...	...	13

The work of erecting the Mansion at Poundon has been completed, and new Parish Halls have been constructed at Leckhampstead and Westbury.

Alterations and additions of importance have been carried out to 9 houses.

The work of erecting 5 new cottages is being proceeded with at the present time.

The requirements of the Building Bye-laws have been strictly observed throughout.

Frequent inspections have been made of all new works in progress, resulting in the necessary adherence to the Standard Requirements.

Housing Problems.

During the year 5 Houses have been condemned as unfit for Human Habitation. Two of these houses have been put into repair, whilst the remaining three are closed and are doomed to be demolished.

At the time of writing, your Council has under consideration a report which I have written drawing your attention to the Housing Problem.

In this report I have recommended that a Special Committee be appointed to enter into detail and endeavour to make good use of the Powers which have been entrusted on a Local Authority under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

It is quite certain that the Housing Problem is a most difficult one, and I trust that the matter will have your careful consideration.

Several cases of overcrowding have been discovered and numerous houses are in existence which require either demolishing or totally renovating.

Often when overcrowding has been removed the evil has again arisen after such removal, owing to insufficient Housing Accommodation.

I have, during the year, had occasion to report several sad and serious cases of overcrowding and improper sex separation.

I have also had occasion to point out to you that in places where an epidemic has arisen it often originated in an overcrowded area,

The district is entirely agricultural (having a decreasing population). The majority of the working-class people are agricultural labourers whose remuneration is insufficient to pay adequate rent for the modern cottage.

Again in numerous cases, small cottages are owned by the labourers themselves, they have not the means to erect new dwellings, hence the necessity for action by your authority.

Nevertheless, I think my report on the New Buildings erected in the district during the past twelve months is, on the whole, satisfactory, and a record one for this district.

I sincerely trust that private enterprise on the part of land and property owners will continue and increase.

I am of opinion that the Building Bye-laws are somewhat stringent, and perhaps have a tendency in a few cases to prevent small owners from building, though they do not embrace any requirements which are not absolutely essential.

Water Supplies.

At the early part of the year The Water Stratford Water Supply Scheme was carried out. A plentiful supply of water has now been brought by gravitation into a Storage Tank situate at about the highest point of the village.

I estimated a supply to provide 7,005 gallons per day, thereby allowing an abundant supply per head.

Several private supplies were laid on to premises, and cisterns have been provided in the farm yards for allowing a pure supply for cattle.

At Poundon there has also been provided a plentiful private supply of water, which has been laid on to a number of premises in the village.

At Steeple Claydon a new branch main has been laid along the North End Road.

The Storage Tanks at Cowley, Charndon and Water Stratford have been thoroughly cleansed.

Necessary repairs to water fittings have been attended to.

Ten samples of water were taken and submitted for analysis. The results of the analysis with one exception proved satisfactory.

In this case the well from whence the bad sample was taken was cleansed and protected.

The Medical Officer also analysed 10 samples from Public Supplies.

The result of the succeeding analysis proved satisfactory.

Eight applications were made for Water Certificates, which were in all cases granted.

In several cases notices were served for the prevention of wilful waste of water.

The following is a summary of the work carried out in connection with the supplies :—

New Public Water Scheme carried out at	Water Stratford.
New Private do.	do. Poundon.

No. of Reservoirs cleansed	...	5
„ „ Mains repaired or relaid	... ..	4
„ „ Wells cleansed, protected, and covered	... ..	8
„ „ New services laid to premises	... ..	13

No. of samples of water taken and submitted for analysis	... ..	10
Standpipes repaired	... ..	9
Pumps	... ..	10
New standpipes erected	... ..	4

A New Public Pump has been fixed at Maids Moreton.

During the year the Padbury water mains were tested and put in good order.

Canal Boats Act. 1877 and 1884.

Whenever opportunity has arisen I have made inspections of the Canal Boats at the Leckhampstead and Maids Moreton Wharves.

My work in this respect has by no means been extensive owing to their being but little traffic along the existing canal.

11 boats were inspected.

Ten were found to be in good order.

One infringement was found on the remaining boat, viz., Boat overcrowded.

The complaint form was issued and was duly returned, my instructions having been complied with.

House to House Inspections.

In accordance with your Council's instructions, house to house inspections have been made in several parts and villages in the district. Full detailed reports have been submitted to you on such inspections, which have very satisfactory results.

Petroleum Act.

During the latter part of the year I have given my attention to the requirements of the above Act, since which several inspections have been made, resulting in applications for licenses and for renewal of licenses for the storage of Carbide of Calcium and Petroleum being made in all cases where necessary.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order.

Throughout the year, periodical visits have been made of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops in your district. Numerous improvements have been carried out. Notices have in most cases been effective when given verbally for the removal of dung and for the limewashing of cowsheds.

Every precaution has been taken for the prevention of the contamination of milk by infection.

Numerous purer water supplies have been provided for cattle-drinking purposes, thereby abolishing a number of stagnant ponds in the district.

Cleanliness has been encouraged with satisfactory results.

Your Medical Officer reports on matters of interest under this Order.

I would draw your Council's attention to the Model Cowsheds which have been erected at Poundon and at Barton Hartshorne. These cowsheds have been erected on most modern lines and are in excellent order.

The following is a summary of my work:—

Total No. of persons registered under the Dairies Order	187
" " " during 1909	... 18
" Entries taken off Register owing to	
" change of tenancy, &c., during 1909	... 13

295 Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops have been inspected during 1909.

8	Modern cowsheds have been erected.	
28	Cowsheds have been cleaned.	
33	„ „ „ channelled.	
33	„ „ „ paved.	
Number of Cowsheds Ventilated ...		11
„	„ Lighted ...	14
„	„ Re-roofed ...	2
„	„ Roofs repaired	2
„	„ enlarged for cubi- cal capacity...	5
„	„ with flows repaired	3
„	„ generally repaired	8
„	Cowhouses condemned ...	6
„	Drain openings removed from inside dairies ...	4

Throughout my inspections during the past year the cows seemed to be in a general healthful condition.

No disease amongst cattle was notified, with the exception of the cows reported to be suffering from tuberculosis of the Udder.

In two cases persons were stopped from milking cattle, owing to the danger of their spreading infection.

Schools.

Inspections have been made of several schools in the district during the year. When sanitary defects were discovered they were notified to the School Authorities, and the defects were remedied.

The schools were found to be in generally good order.

Offensive Trades.

There are still no offensive trades carried on in your district. During the month of May I discovered that an offensive knacker's yard was being kept at Bull Lane, Steeple Claydon, on most foul confined and insanitary premises. The nuisance caused therefrom was most offensive.

The trade has now been abolished.

Slaughter Houses.

The Slaughter Houses in your district have been periodically visited and inspected.

142 inspections have been made. Notice for limewashing and cleansing have been observed and attended to.

I have generally found the slaughter houses to be in good order.

I have on two occasions given instructions for the destruction of unsound meat discovered on slaughtering premises.

One application for a Slaughter House license was received. The license was granted subject to certain further improvements being carried out to the Slaughter House.

The conditions were complied with.

On one occasion during the year the Slaughter House Byelaws were published in the local Press.

At Tingewick I discovered that slaughtering was being carried out in Cross Lane on unlicensed and unregistered premises, which were totally unsuitable for slaughtering purposes. No license could be granted, and by the instructions of your Council the trade was stopped. A similar case occurred at Lillingstone Lovell.

When sanitary defects have been discovered on slaughtering premises notices have been served, and the defects have been remedied.

Workshops and Bakehouses,

The Workshops and Bakehouses have been visited and inspected in the district.

66 inspections have been made, and the necessary measures have been taken for keeping same in sanitary order when occasion has arisen.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

During the year many problems under this heading have been brought to the attention of your Council, more especially at Marsh Gibbon and Edgcott, which are the only villages in the district where the sewage effluents discharge into the River Ray (a tributary of the Thames). Complaints have been

received from the Thames Conservancy Board respecting the effluents discharging from the Purification Tanks. Every effort has been made to secure satisfactory effluents, and during the year the tanks have been re-charged and improved.

The sewage tanks and filter beds have been attended to at Westbury and Steeple Claydon.

The necessary flushing has been carried out to the sewer at Water Stratford.

The sewage tanks throughout the district have been periodically cleansed, and the cleansing of all sewer ditches has been attended to.

Sewers.

At Sand Hill, Middle Claydon, a Public Nuisance was caused from the sewage cesspool overflow, discharging into an open ditch at the side of the High Road.

During the year this nuisance has been abolished, and a sub-irrigation scheme has been introduced, giving satisfactory results.

Drainage works have been carried out on the Foscott Estate, also at Poundon and Barton Hartshorne.

The work of laying a sewer for conveying the sewage from the lower end of the village of Westbury to the Sewage Outfall Works was satisfactorily completed during the year, whilst the sewerage at Akeley and Marsh Gibbon mentioned in my report of last year has also been effectively carried out.

Numerous foul untrapped surface drain openings have been put in order by Mr. Treadwell, your Road Surveyor. Manholes have been inserted in sewers when necessary, and general repairs have in numerous cases been carried out.

The following is a summary of sewerage improvements :—

An agricultural pipe sewer abolished, properly re-constructed and relaid along the Main Street to the Bicester Road, Marsh Gibbon.

- do. Blackthorn Road, Marsh Gibbon.
- do. Grendon Road, Edgcott.
- do. Cross Lane, Tingewick.
- do. Back Lane, Tingewick.

An extension of sewer along Bull Lane and Vicarage Lane, Steeple Claydon, for conveying the sewage from the new and proposed new cottages on Building Plots in Vicarage Lane.

An extension of sewer at Chapel Lane, Thornborough, also extensions Lower End, Back Lane, and Main Street, Thornborough.

Sewers relaid at Padbury, Adstock, and Preston Bissett.

Manholes inserted in sewers at Steeple Claydon, Padbury, Marsh Gibbon, Adstock, and Preston Bissett.

Your Council has at the present time under consideration various drainage schemes for the district.

In conclusion, I again desire to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk, and the Road Surveyor, for the courteous and kindly assistance given me during the past year.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LEONARD BELL, M.I., MUN., E.

(Certificated Sanitary Inspector).

Summary of the Inspector's Work for 1909.

Number of houses for which drains have been constructed	62
„ repaired, unstopped or cleansed	25
„ drains ventilated	17
„ disconnecting traps fixed	16
„ gulley traps inserted for replacing defective drain openings, etc.	211
„ grease traps fixed	2
„ manholes built	63
„ cesspools properly constructed	9
„ „ abolished	2
„ „ repaired	2
„ cellars drained	4
„ vent shafts repaired	2
„ septic tanks inserted	3
Total	418

SINKS—

Number of new trapped sinkstones provided	...	...	13
„ foul sinkstones repaired	...	...	2
„ sink wastes trapped	...	...	6
Total	...	...	21

URINALS—

Number of new urinals erected	...	...	2
„ floors inserted and proper channelling provided	...	...	3
„ urinals drained	...	...	2
„ „ repaired	...	...	3
Total	...	...	10

CLOSETS—

Number of new water closets constructed replacing earth closets	...	...	...	14
„ earth closets constructed replacing privy middens	...	...	...	23
„ new pails provided	...	...	...	6
„ closets repaired, limewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	53

Number of yards drained	...	...	...	16
„ stables paved or drained	...	...	...	10
„ piggeries cleansed, paved or drained	...	...	...	7
„ „ removed to newly-erected styres	...	...	...	9
„ „ abolished	...	...	...	11
„ foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	4
„ foul accumulations removed	...	...	...	21
„ cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	5
„ gutterings or gatherings provided to cottages	...	...	...	10
„ filthy houses cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	11
„ light or vent of buildings repaired or improved	...	...	...	4
„ damp dilapidated cottages repaired	...	...	...	9
„ new ashpits provided	...	...	...	10
„ „ ashbins „	...	...	...	4
„ ashpits repaired	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	134

